

# ACCESS TO MEDICAL IMAGING COALITION

June 30, 2011

Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

On behalf of the members of the Access to Medical Imaging Coalition (AMIC) and the more than 100,000 physicians, provider groups, technology manufacturers and patient groups we represent, we are writing to thank you for your steadfast leadership in successfully preventing the use of Medicare payments for medical imaging as an offset for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011.

As you know, reducing Medicare payments for critical screening and diagnostic services by another \$400 million would further reduce beneficiary access to life-saving care and would result in additional employment losses in the technology manufacturing sector. At a time of great progress in the fight against cancer—with new research showing that imaging-based screenings for lung and breast cancer significantly lower the risk of death from these devastating diseases—reducing the availability of mammography, lung CT and other vital imaging services would be the exact wrong way to go.

We greatly appreciate your taking a stand on behalf of medical imaging and the innovators who develop these technologies, the physicians who use them to diagnose and treat disease, and the patients whose health and lives depend on them. We also wish to thank Alison Bonebrake from your staff for her remarkable efforts on behalf of our members. Your leadership will help to ensure that our seniors will continue to have access to the high-quality care they deserve.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Trysla  
Executive Director  
Access to Medical Imaging Coalition

American College of Cardiology  
American College of Radiology  
Association for Quality Imaging  
Cardiology Advocacy Alliance  
GE Healthcare

Philips Healthcare  
Siemens Healthcare  
SonoSite  
US Oncology

cc: Alison Bonebrake